

**From:** Jane Koechlin [mailto:JKoechlin@isokern.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2012 6:46 AM  
**To:** dhensel@hcd.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Cal Green Code Discussions  
**Importance:** High

Please see below. I, along with many others, manufacturers, dealers and distributors, are to say the least, bewildered.

From the first focus group in which several hearth industry representatives were present, (Earthcore, Mason Lite, Fire Rock, HPBA and others) we were all in agreement that the code, as written was confusing and needed to be clarified. Even your council and yourself agreed that the code was written without the knowledge necessary. Since then, no one with the exception of myself and Mr. Paulson, Western Divisional Manager for Earthcore offered any input, comments or bothered to discuss the code any further. Mr. Paulson and I however, were in contact with several of our competing companies as our interests are for the industry as a whole and the ability to work with entities such as EPA and HCD.

Over the past couple of years, Mr. Paulson and I gladly took our time and met with you to answer any questions and explain our industry, keeping in mind the interests of the hearth industry as a whole, not just Earthcore. We were so grateful to be received and heard and given the opportunity to clarify language and standards issues. We were told that it was not the intention of Cal-Green to exclude any one company or type of fireplace. The sealed, direct vent portion of the code has already excluded the entire masonry industry as the standards for testing cannot as yet be met by any masonry built fireplace.

Mr. Hensel, I think it is a great shame that you did not sit in on any of those discussions with myself, Mr. Paulson, Shawn, Kyle, Jane Taylor, Peggy Jenkins, Enrique Rodriguez and others from the Building Standards Commission. Finding out that information gathered by some at those meetings came from the local fireplace store down the street was disheartening to say the least. It was a pleasure meeting and working with you all and these discussions were open, honest, non-specific to any one company and shed light as to the terminology and the newest technology of our industry. Those in attendance (including myself and Mr. Paulson) learned about the goals of the hearth industry, EPA and HCD. We all learned and took away valuable information.

A great deal of time and effort was put into clarifying the intent of the Cal Green code by many. To have one company come in at the last minute touting displeasure and falsehoods and have all our efforts thwarted, is suspicious to say the least. They were correct on one issue only and that is their fireplaces didn't draft correctly using the catalytic technology and couldn't pass the EPA Phase 2 Qualifying standards. As I have said many times before however, they, like all of us have the ability to utilize the technology for clean burning, they just choose not to. They are a very small part of a huge industry who, for the most part are interested in working with the EPA and Cal Green to bring awareness to new, clean burning technologies. Even HPBA, the largest Hearth Industry Association was represented at the first focus group meeting and was in agreement that the code needed revising.

To say now, after years of fighting the misconceptions the code, as written, has initiated in the field, that the matter needs more investigation is irresponsible and redundant. We have been supplying HCD with the knowledge necessary to write clear and easy to understand language into the code. If you choose not to recognize this exciting, clean burning technology, we have to accept that. Please, at this stage, just **take fireplaces out of the code entirely**. It has been a battle trying to explain the confusing language of your code as it is, and the different testing protocol as many still believe that the wood

stove & fireplace EPA Phase 2 programs are the same. Do not punish us further as it is difficult enough for our industry to survive in California.

It is disappointing also, that after several emails to you all, we have not been given the courtesy of any response. Evidently and for some unknown reason, HHT has been given all considerations and professional courtesies. This will certainly warrant investigation by many who have so much at stake.

**\*\*PS:** As you can see from the email from HHT below, their goal has been accomplished and that goal is nothing more than to initiate a sales strategy for profit. If **“Environmental Quality”** is the true nature of the Cal Green code, well then,..... it should be.

Also, though they were given all the consideration, it is a shame they could not even spell your name right Shawn.

Sincerely,

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